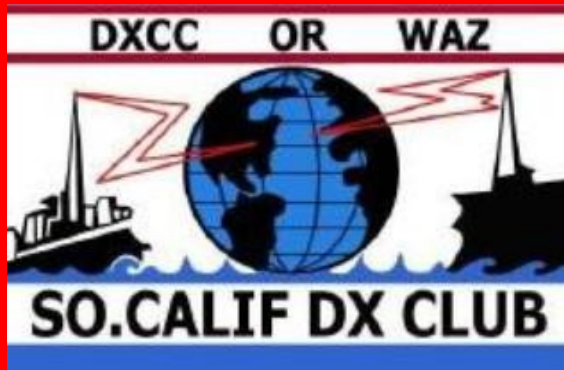




63 Years of DX-cellence

May 2011



BULLetin

The Southern California DX Club

"If you need him get in there and work him"

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The SCDXC strongly supports the DX Code of Conduct. Please visit their website:

www.dx-code.org

The newsletter is published every month and is released to its members about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the editor, Bill:

n6rv@scdxc.org

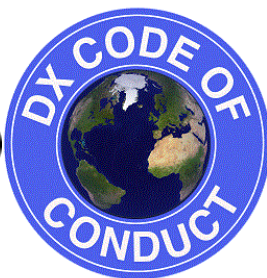
Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at:

<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater:

W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL



MAY MEETING

7:30 PM May 12th, 2011

Sunspots, Cycle 24, Magnetic Storms and Ham Radio

Dr. Bruce Edgar, AG6BJ

- **ZS8M Marion Island**
- **T32C Christmas Island**
- **Are You Updating Your Standings**
Send your standings to both **N6DHZ & N6RV!**
- **We Immediately Need**
Reporters
Articles & Interesting Tidbits

Making friends all over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio.
Sponsors of the International DX Convention, since 1949

SCDXC Annual Picnic

Sunday June 12, 2011 at 11:00am



The SCDXC Picnic will be held Sunday, June 12, at Woodley Park, Grove 1, in Van Nuys. The club provides hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, drinks, and paper goods. Bring a side dish and your appetite! Talk in on W6AM/R 145.480Mhz PL 100.00hz.

We will have our special raffle board for a chance at a Yaesu FT-450D! The spots will be \$10.00 each. Square sales start at the March meeting.

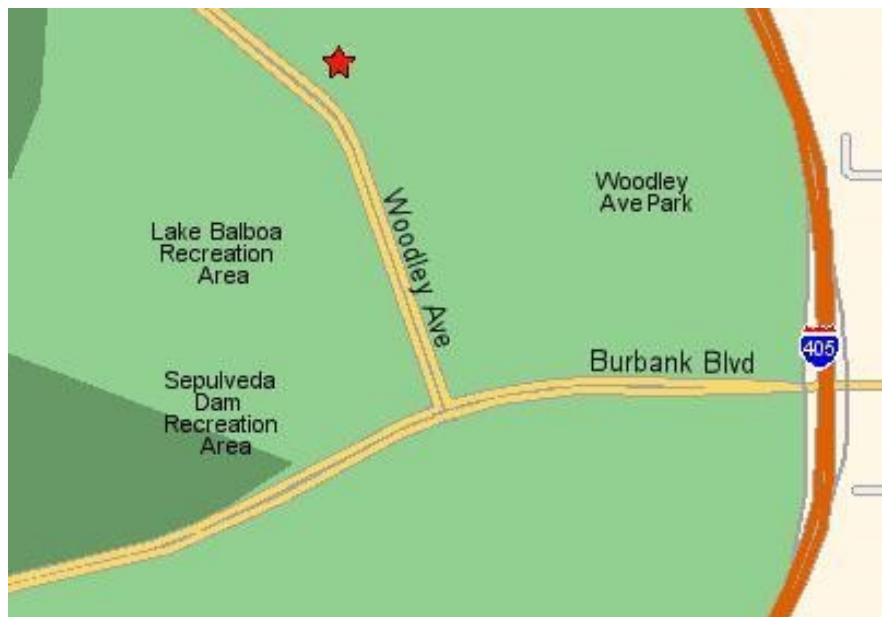


<http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&encProdID=870B3CA7CFCB61E6A599B0EFEA2217E4&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0>

From the south exit the 405 freeway at Burbank, this is the first exit past the 101 Fwy. Turn left (West) onto Burbank travel about 3/4 of a mile to Woodley Ave. Turn Right at the stop light and go north about 3/4 of a mile. The entrance to the picnic area and parking lot will be on the right (East) side and is just north of the entrance to the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.

From the north exit the 405 Freeway at Burbank, Turn right (West) onto Burbank travel about 3/4 of a mile to Woodley Ave. Turn Right at the stop light and go north about 3/4 of a mile. The entrance to the picnic area and parking lot will be on the right (East) side and is just north of the entrance to the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant.

See you there!



THE PREZ SEZ

John Schroeder, N6QQ,
President – Southern California DX Club
n6qq@scdxc.org

Hello Everybody!

Congratulations to new member, David Lopez, N6RI, for receiving this year's Clipperton Award. David worked over 190 countries! Even more impressive is that he did it all with a vertical antenna!

Congratulations to Mel, K6SY, for receiving the DXer of Year Award. It is well deserved and a long time coming. Mel you have supported SCDXC, DXing, and amateur radio in general in so many ways for so many years. It was my honor to present this award to you.

I had a great time at Visalia. There were lots of goodies to look at! The vendors were selling and they were happy! This is my wife's first visit to Visalia and it looks like she had a good time. Many thanks to all those who made her feel welcome. I will see if she will return next year. I met hams from 6 countries and missed two. Next year it will be our turn. If you have any suggestions for Visalia 2012 - please forward your ideas to Mel, K6SY -- k6sy@aol.com.

DXing has been good. The daily sun spots hit a high of 153 two weeks ago. Solar Flux is staying above 120 most days. There have been 12 meter openings to Europe almost daily.

For the contesting folks:

For the 10 meter fans -- 10-10 Int. Spring Contest CW - May 7-8

7th Call Area QSO Party - May 7-8 -- this contest is much like our 6th District QSO party.

For the RTTY fans - Volta WW RTTY Contest - May 14-15

For CW fans - the last big contest of the Spring - CQ WW WPX CW - May 28-29.

See you at the May Meeting!

73, John N6QQ

President, SCDXC



Treasurer's Report

Club financial information is available on request. Contact the treasurer.

Officer Guidelines

The revised version of the Officers Guidelines is available on our website. See the hyperlink below.

Code of Conduct

SCDXC endorses the the **DX Code of Conduct** See the hyperlink below.



Thank You Bob, N6TV, for the use of your wonderful photographs!

Officer Guidelines

http://www.scdxc.org/download/Officer_Guidelines.pdf

DX Code of Conduct

<http://www.dx-code.org/>



VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Bill Kendrick, N6RV,
Vice President Editor – SCDXC
n6rv@scdxc.org**

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow!

Hello Fellow DXers!

Well Visalia has come and gone! It is a bitter sweet experience. Such a short wonderful time just relaxing. We see people we have not had the chance to hang out with for any reasonable amount of time. We see people we get a chance to see only once a year! Best of all there was no club meeting to organize and no prizes to contend with. You know this VP job is pretty time consuming but it is a joy as is the newsletter!

There was a board meeting on April 2nd just to show that everyone on the board is alive and breathing. Even Marilyn made it though she is still off her feet. Speedy recovery Marilyn. We hope to see you in May! Nothing else exciting to report except there is clear sailing until the end of the year.

This month's program was recommended by Doug, W6HB, and the topic is most timely! Dr. Bruce Edgar will speak on the progress of Solar Cycle 24. Here is a description of the talk and Bruce's bio:

Dr. Bruce Edgar AG6BJ

Every ham that I talk to on the air expresses some impatience over the growth of Cycle 24 over the past year. Most hams automatically assume that increased sun spot counts imply improved HF propagation. However, there is no physics connection except for a general correlation. This talk will give a simple overview of the physics of the 11 year cycle, production of sun spots, solar flares, magnetic storms, ionosphere, and HF propagation.

Dr. Bruce Edgar has worked as a Space Scientist from 1965 to 1995. He started as a graduate student at Stanford investigating the effects of magnetic storms on very low frequency radio (Whistler mode) propagation in the earth's magnetosphere. In 1973 he joined the Space Science Lab at The Aerospace Corp. in El Segundo and later transferred to the Space Test Program. He passed his technicians and general license exams in late 2009, receiving the call KJ6DJL and passed his extra exam on January 1st, 2011 upgrading his call to AG6BJ.

We will see all of you at the June picnic! It will be a blast!

73, de N6RV Vice President SCDXC

... ..

DXer of The Year

**Congratulations
Ernie N6HY!**

Clipperton Award

**Congratulations
Rich AE6RS!**

New Members

Please welcome new members:

**Ron Resnick
W2DXX**

**Paul Gussow
W6GMU**

**Peter Arninge
SM5GMZ**

**Jerry Lewine
K6QU**

**Gabriel Calfas
K6AWB**

**Peter Narins
K2IXQ**

**Gene Brewer
W5DQ**

**Rick Crosmer
W6ENZ**

**Linda Souder
KD6HYN**

**Roger Merideth
K6GVO**

**Rob Reichman
WA3IHV**

**Lloyd Hendrickson
K6NQY**

**Arnold Schwartz
WB6PJC**

**Stan Thornton
K16QM**

**David Lopez
N6RI**

**Stan Thornton
W6SMT**

**Mark Willardson
N6UOZ**

**Barry Fitchew
N6VOH**

**Mary Gray
KH6VZ**

**Timothy Coker
N6WIN**

**Make sure you meet and
greet them at the next
meeting!**

New DXer Resources

New DXers Handbook

http://www.udxa.org/attachments/148_New_DXers_Handbook.pdf

RUMORS ON THE BAND

A plethora of announcements, rumors, and serious DX fun

The Big DXpeditions for this month are **Afghanistan**, **St. Barthelemy** & **Dodecanese**. Notice that there are several DXpeditions going on in this month. Expect greater activity as the solar cycle progresses!

T32C - Kritimati

Look for the article a few pages down on the 5 Star DXpedition trip to Christmas Island in September, Arnie, N6HC and Bob, N6OX, will be on the team. By the way Arnie, N6HC, Charlie, W6KK, and John, N7CQQ are at T31A Canton Island as this column is being written!

If you do not know about the 5 Star DXpedition please see the following website:

<http://www.fsdxa.com/>

<http://dx-world.net/2010/t32c-christmas-island/>

T6PSE - Afghanistan

Paul, N6PSE, stated at Visalia that the Afghanistan DXpedition is still on track for some time in this month. Keep a close eye out for this team. Hopefully with good conditions we will catch them on several bands.

5M2TT Liberia

Our hats are off to the I2YSB team operating 5M2TT who was heard on just about every band. As you recall this group activated Somalia twice, one of the top ten most wanted countries from the West Coast. Congratulations on a job well done!

Member DXpeditions

If you are planning a trip this spring or summer please let us know and we will publish it in the newsletter. Maybe we could get a little club competition going for most band / modes worked!

Blue Information indicate particularly rare entities and **Red information** indicate SCDXC member attended DXpedition. As always you have to turn on your radio to work them.

Useful DX Sites

N0HR DXpedition Map

www.n0hr.com/wk34/

The DX Zone

www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/

The Daily DX

www.dailydx.com/

Announced DX Ops

www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

DXing.info

[/www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/](http://www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/)

DX 425 News

www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de

www.dx-info.de

DX Italia DX News

www.marioi2mcp.it

DH9SB Weekly DX Calendar

<http://www.dx-info.de>

Call	QTH	Start Date	End Date	Information	Website
T6PSE	Afghanistan	Now	5/31/2011	N6PSE, K3LP, YT1AD, K1LZ, WO1S, Y11UNH, AH6HY, W0UCE, W5KDJ, 10 days in May	http://www.intrepid-dx.com/t6pse/index.php
YA	Afghanistan	Now	5/30/2011	KD5NOI (T6JC) & K5TLL (T6TL) 40-10 SSB, RTTY, PSK	-
ZD9	Gough Island	Now	9/1/2011	ZS1LF	-
9G5LK	Ghana	4/28/2011	5/6/2011	PE1KL, PA2LS, 80-10m, SSB, PSK31, RTTY	http://www.pe1kl-pa2ls.com/
YI	Iraq	Now		KB2RLB (Y11RLB), KG4GYS (Y14GYS)	-
SV5	Dodecanese	5/8/2011	5/14/2011	SV5/PA1FJ/p	-
SX5F	Dodecanese	5/14/2011	5/22/2011	SV1GRM, SV1HER, SV1RP, SV1RC, SV1QN, SV1GYG, SV2FWV, HF, CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK	http://www.qrz.com/db/SX5F
FJ	St. Barthelemy	5/14/2011	5/22/2011	FJ/OS1T; 40-6m, SSB, RTTY	http://cendyshop.be/FJ-OS1T.html
T2XG	Tuvalu	5/17/2011	5/24/2011	JA1XGI; 40-10m, CW, SSB, RTTY,	-
JW8HGA	Svalbard	5/19/2011	5/23/2011	LA8HGA, 40 -10m, CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK	-

DX ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrate the Successes of Our Fellow Members!

Remember to Send in Your Updated Standings

Please look over the lists and update your standings and email them to the address below! We do not want to miss celebrating your accomplishments!

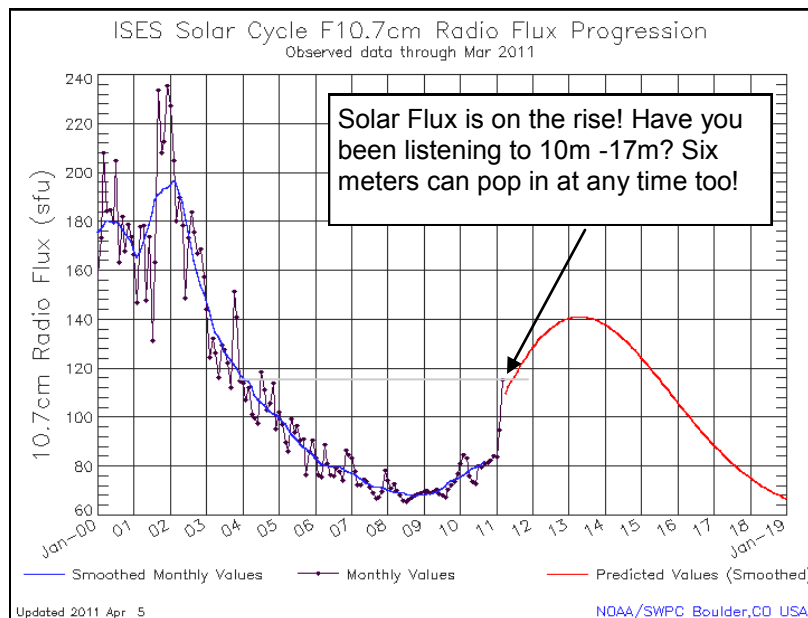
SCDXC WAZ and DXCC Standings (N6RV)

The first of the two large numbers represent the number of confirmed zones on the 9 HF bands 160-10 (less 60 meters). The next column contain the following codes:

M Mixed
P Phone
C CW
R RTTY
5 5 Band

If you have any information to post please email me:

N6RV@SCDXC.ORG



For Sale

Ten Tec Titan 425 amplifier in excellent condition by a non smoking user. It easily puts out full legal power on all HF bands, including 17 and 12m. A good feature of this amplifier is its separate power supply, making the RF deck easy to handle. Also included is one spare 3CX800A7 tube. All three tubes were just hi-pot checked by RF Parts and are in good condition. I have two spare amplifiers and a spare for the spares, so don't need to keep this one. I'm not interested in shipping, so prefer pick up only. If necessary I can deliver within 30 miles of Encinitas. Price \$2000. Please call me at (760) 822-7709 if interested. Jim McCook, W6YA

WAZ STANDINGS

	9B / 5B	Awards
EU7SA	355 / 200	M/5
N6AW	355 / 200	M/P/C/5
WA5VGI	352 / 200	M/P/C/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
K6FG	347 / 197	M/P/C/R/5
W6SR	342 / 200	M/P/C//5
W8DX	339 / 200	M/5
K6YUI	337 / 200	M/P/C/R/5
W6YOO	303 / 200	M/P/C/5
KC6X	283 / 200	M/C/5
K6YRA	280 / 200	P/5
N6RV	270 / 183	M/P/C
K6LD	271 / 172	M/P
KR6C	281/ 169	M/C
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
WD6L	248 / 200	M/P/5
K6SY	246 / 173	P
W6ZPL	237 / 173	M/P
K6GXO	227 / 193	M
AD6KQ	226 / 164	
N6OU	220 / 200	M/5
N6DHZ	214 / 160	P
KH6DX/m	210 / 184	
NS6C	/ 198	
N6MXU	155 / 193	
K2PLF	191 / 191	
K6KII	191 / 177	M
W6IRD	181 / 147	M/P
W6NRQ	180 / 147	M/P
K6IRD	154 / 126	M/P
WA6BOB	152 / 136	M
K6IRA	118 / 102	
W3SE	102 / 112	
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
N6VNI	86 / 64	
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6UC	78 / 78	M
N6GIL	49 / 43	
W6DCK	40 / 40	P
WB6PSY	40 / 40	P
K6JW	40 / 40	M/P
KT6LA	40 / 40	
K6YR	39 / 39	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
N6HE	35 / 35	
W4EF	29 /	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
KB6KTV		P
W6OES		M
K8RD		C
K6UNR	/ 200	M/P/5

DXCC STANDINGS

	TOT / CUR
K6KII	386 / 340
JA1BK	377 / 338
K6YRA	376 / 340
K6EXO	370 / 338
N6UC	365 / 338
K6YUI	364 / 340
W6HT	358 / 338
W6SR	357 / 340
WA6WZO	356 / 340
K8RD	355 / 340
NS6C	355 / 338
N6AW	355 / 337
K6FG	354 / 340
K2PLF	353 / 340
N6RV	353 / 338
K6IPV	353 / 334
W6OES	351 / 334
K5KT	350 / 338
K6GXO	350 / 338
KC6X	348 / 339
W8DX	348 / 338
W6AUG	347 / 340
W6OM	347 / 337
WB6PSY	347 / 336
K6ND	346 / 340
W6YOO	344 / 338
K6LD	344 / 338
W6ENZ	345 / 337
W6KK	343 / 338
W6VX	343 / 338
N6AWD	343 / 336
W6DCK	342 / 336
WA5VGI	342 / 336
N6QQ	340 / 337
EU7SA	340 / 336
KB6KTV	340 / 335
KR6C	338 / 335
N6HC	338 / 333
N6OU	334 / 329
N6HY	333 / 329
AD6KQ	328 / 328
W6IRD	327 / 324
K6UNR	333 / 332
W6QE	332 / 324
KM6HB	328 / 325
KJ6Y	327 / 323
K2IXQ	324 / 325
W6ZPL	317 / 317
K6SY	312 / 310
W6HB	297 / 291
WD6L	295 / 295
N6DHZ	287 / 283
W6NRQ	285 / 281
N7CQQ	268 / 266
N6MXU	268 / 266
N6WIN	258 / 253
K6GEP	254 / 249
K6JW	253 / 251
K6DJ	251 / 249
K6YR	244 / 244
K6HCJ	235 / 235
K6IRD	235 / 235
K6GEP	229 / 226
K6VC	227 / 227
N6VNI	223 / 223
KT6LA	202 / 202
WA6BOB	202 / 198
W6VWV	165 / 165
W6EA	152 / 152
N6HE	152 / 147
KA6TTV	149 / 149
K6OGO	142 / 142
W4EF	132 / 132
WA6NOL	127 / 126
K6LX	125 / 125
NZ6L	27 / 27

SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Comments, Announcements, and Interesting Tid-Bits Submitted by Members

HRO Open House April 30th (N6RV)

HRO Anaheim is having a "Ham Jam" this Saturday. During regular business hours of 10AM-5:30PM there will be representatives from Yaesu, Comet, CQ, Red Cross, Gordon West, Hospital Disaster Emergency Comms, ARRL, ARDF, any clubs who wish to set up a table with literature, and even more, present for the education of any and all who wish to join us.

There will be hourly prize drawings, including Gift Certificates from Yaesu with a total value of \$350, books from ARRL, Gordon West, and CQ, and antennas from Comet among other things.

W6HRO will be on the air on HF for those wanting to learn or improve their operating skills, there will be D-Star demonstrations, and the American Heritage Girls will be on site offering hotdogs + soda for \$1 (all proceeds from the food goes to support them).

Request for Rare French QSL Cards (W6NRQ)

Hello Dear Hams,

I am looking for French vintage QSL cards from :

- * Pre- WWII Mainland France, F0AA to F9ZZ series, included 3 suffix.
- * France colonies and overseas territories (FA to FZ series), included FKS series.
- Few others countries as Monaco 3A, China AC-XL-XU-C series, Morocco CN, Germany D2 to D5, Lebanon OD, Congo OQ, Andorra PX.

You can see my QSL gallery website here: <http://arp75.free.fr/GalerieARP/index.php?page/1>

QSL cards can be:

- * sent to me as a gift to clean your QSL shoes boxes before someone puts them into the garbage...
- * bought by me, price included shipment to Paris via USPS, with PayPal payment,

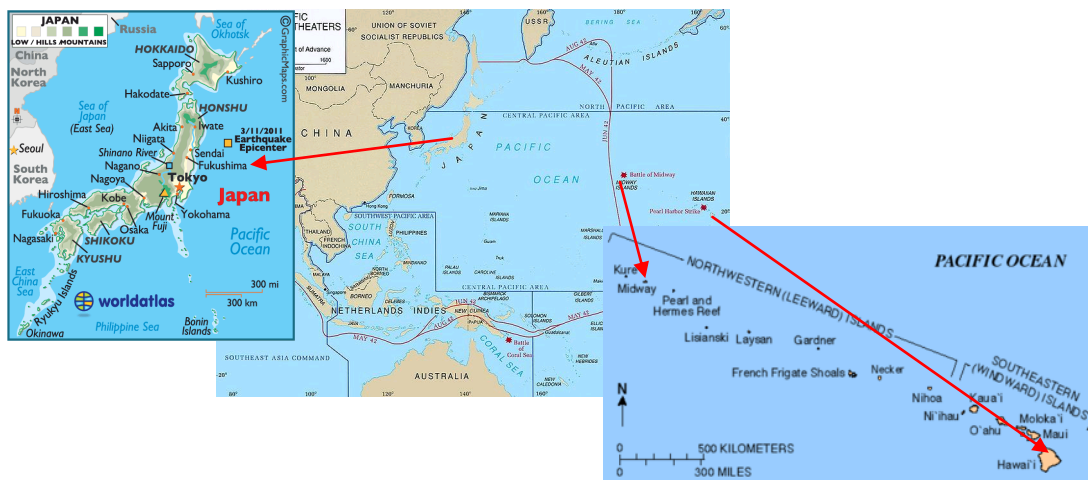
Many thanks and best 73

Laurent BEUGNET F6GOX 66 Avenue de la Republique F-75011 Paris France

Contact via f6gox@free.fr

Tsunami Damage on Northern Hawaiian Islands (DJ9ZB)

Franz has been sending regular inputs to the newsletter. This link is a video interviewing personnel and assessing the damage on Midway, Leysan Island, French Frigate Shoals, Kure Atoll, Palmyra, and Midway Island.



SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Comments, Announcements, and Interesting Tid-Bits Submitted by Members

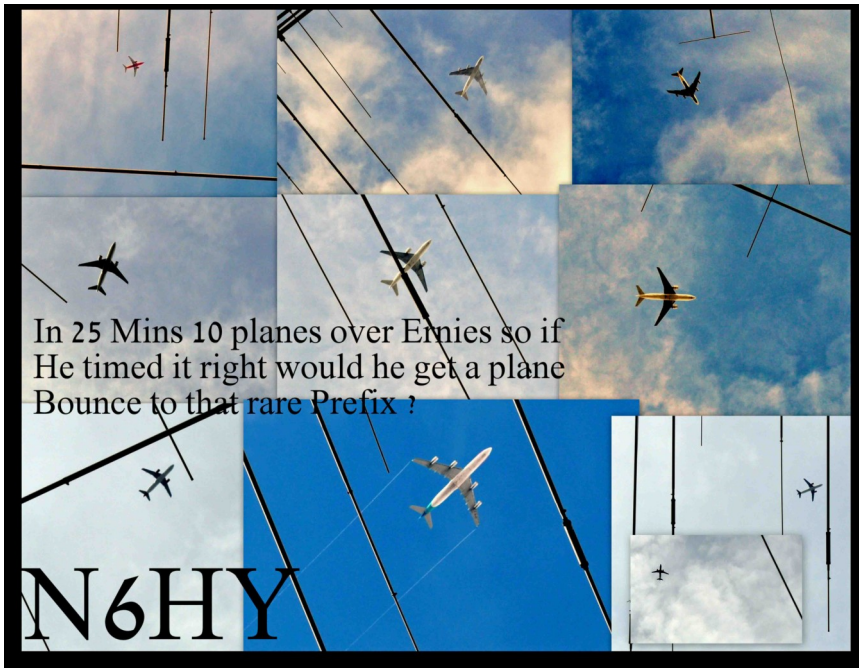
June Picnic Volunteers (N6RV)

On an early note the picnic is in June and we are looking for noble volunteers. What makes the picnic a great event is that so many people who did not volunteer step up and help out in whatever way possible. That is a rarity in these days, believe me! Thanks in advance for all of those who will step up! Please contact me at N6RV@scdxc.org

W6OAR Tower Failure! (K6YUI)

It seems Randy was out of town when the winds hit. Before he could get home and crank down this one it folded. Note how the failure is at the second section from the top and then it fell over from the momentum caused the third section from the top to fail folding the tower back on itself. In terms we all can understand the antenna was big enough! Of course, the average winds were in the 70 MPH range with gusts of 92 MPH. That is near the survival speed for the tower alone without antennas!

Sorry to see the mess Randy!



Airplanes Can Cause QRN? (K6LD)

Keith, K6LD, Larry, K6YUI, Ernie, N6HY, and Urban, W6MPB, were sitting in Ernie's backyard. Keith noted that there were planes flying over every ten minutes. He snapped the shots above. I wonder if the pilot points out Ernie's house on the way in to LAX?

Check out Keith's great photographs at: <http://keithlewisphotoworks.com/>

You can purchase them on-line as well as through Keith directly. He is now mounting and framing.

IDXC VISALIA 2011







See more photographs at Bob, N6TV's, website:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/rawilson/2011VisaliaInternationalDXConvention#>



We are on in 2012! See You There!

ZS8M

Pierre D. Tromp

Marion Island South Africa



Pierre just completed a one year tour on Marion Island. His job was electronics / radio technician and he helped install the HF equipment. He also brought a long his own gear. Many of us worked him on 40 for a new one. Pierre is a very good writer and his QRZ.com page is full of great information and pictures. A few members may have received his newsletters already however many probably did not. Honorary member Franz Langer, DJ9ZB, forwarded these two newsletters and they are very pleasant reads. Enjoy!

ZS8M January News Letter

Pierre D. Tromp ZS1HF

ITU Zone: 57 CQ Zone: 38 46 54 S / 37 05 E



Prince Edward Island on a clear day

Greetings,

Welcome to the ZS8M January 2010 News Letter.

I sincerely hope you have all recovered from the Christmas season and that your credit cards are also recovering.

Due to many requests for some history of Marion Island, I have included it in this month's news letter.

Basic Information:

Location: (46°52'34"S, 37°51'32"E). The Marion Island is situated in the Southern Atlantic Ocean, and is built on an active volcano.

History:

Marion Island was first discovered in 1663 by the Dutch ship Maerseveen. The discovery was accidental, and they made no landing on the island. After about five years Captain Cook also saw the islands, but he couldn't make a landing due to bad weather. The first recorded landing on the island was in 1803 by a group of sealers, but they found signs of earlier occupation. In late 1947 and early 1948 South Africa took possession of both Marion and Prince Edward islands. The two islands were annexed under the command of Lieutenant-Commander John Fairburn and the South African flag was raised.

Science:

Space and Atmospheric physics, Biological studies on mice, birds (penguins, petrels, albatross, gulls and a few more), penguins and seals. There is also an important meteorological station on the island.

Other Information:

Five domestic cats, including a castrated orange striped male tabby and a black and white female together with three kittens were introduced during 1949 on Marion Island. They were brought to the island to help exterminate a mouse problem in the base. The cat population exploded and their appetite changed from mice to birds. Because of this, in the 1980's cat extermination teams were sent to the island. Today, there are no cats left on the island. Marion Island was formed by volcanic activity. It is actually a mountain built up from the ocean floor. Only the mountain peak can be seen from the ocean surface.

If the volcano is measured from the ocean floor, it is about 5000m high. Until 1980, many people thought that the volcanic activity has stopped, and the volcano was classified extinct. In that same year, it erupted, and because of this it is now classified as an active volcano.

The islands lie directly in the path of eastward-moving depressions all year round and this gives them an unusually cool and windy climate. Strong winds blow almost every day of the year and the prevailing wind direction is north-westerly. Annual rainfall averages from 2,400 mm (94.5 in) up to over 3,000 mm (118.1 in) on Mascarin Peak.

It rains on average about 320 days a year (about 28 days a month) and the islands are among the cloudiest places in the world - about 1300 hours a year on the sheltered eastern side of Marion Island but falling to around 800 hours away from the coast and on the wet western sides of Marion and Prince Edward Island. Summer and winter have fairly similar climates with cold winds and threat of snow or frost possible at any time of the year. However, the mean temperature in February (midsummer) is 8.3 °C (46.9 °F) and in August (midwinter) it is 3.9 °C (39.0 °F).

The Cat Eradication Program:

Five domestic cats, including a castrated, orange striped male tabby and a black and white female together with three kittens were introduced during 1949 on Marion Island. These felines were brought to the island to help eradicate a mouse problem in the base. As cats do they soon multiplied and the first feral cat was seen in 1951. By 1975 the population had increased to more than 2 000 cats feeding on thousands of burrowing petrels, a much easier prey than the mice they were supposed to hunt. In 1975 alone the cats ate just under half a million birds and species such as the Common Diving Petrel, the Soft Plumage Petrel and the Grey Petrel became extinct on Marion Island. With other remaining bird species also at risk it was decided to initiate the Marion Island Cat Eradication Program. In 1977 the entire cat population was estimated around 3 405 individuals. A few animals were infected with the highly specific disease feline panleucopenia. By 1982 there were an estimated 615 cats remaining. During the spring of 1986 a secondary control measure in the form of nocturnal hunting was initiated on full scale. For three summers, eight two-man teams using battery-operated spotlights and 12-bore shotguns killed approximately 803 cats in total. The progressive decrease in hunting success and the sighting rate of cats suggested that hunting alone was no longer sufficient in reducing the numbers. Traps were used and between 1989 and 1991 the remaining cats were removed.

During the 12-month period post April 1991, only eight cats were trapped and three trapping teams recorded no sightings. It is now believed that complete eradication of feral cats on Marion Island has been achieved after 19 years.

Discovery and annexation:

Marion Island was first discovered in 1663 by the Dutch ship Maerseveen. The discovery was accidental and no landing was made on the island. More than one hundred years later, in 1772, it was seen again by Frenchman Marion du Fresne, who was looking for Antarctica when he came across the island group.

Thinking it was part of Antarctica, he spent 5 days trying to make a landing before he discovered it was only two small islands. They left and never returned. After four more years, Captain Cook also saw the islands, but could not make a landing because of bad weather. The first recorded landing on the island was in 1803 by a group of sealers, but they did find signs of earlier occupation. In late 1947 and early 1948 South Africa took possession of both Marion and Prince Edward islands.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Commander John Fairburn the two islands were annexed and the South African flag was raised. The first expedition to the island was a meteorological team, led by Allan B. Crawford. Meteorologists have occupied the island ever since, joined in later years by scientists conducting research on the environment and ecology. One of the first documented records of biological observations on Marion Island were those made by Richard Harris, who observed and collected seabirds during a British sealing expedition in 1830. There are two major chapters in the history of Marion Island - sealing activities and the introduction and subsequent eradication of cats. Both had major impacts on the current state of the island and its wildlife.

Sealing:

During the 19th century elephant seal oil was the primary natural resource collected on the island. This was done by boiling the seal blubber in large tri pots either on the beach or on board the ships. Harvesting of fur seal and penguin skins for gloves also occurred on the island. Some remnants of these days still scatter the beaches. Remains of huts can still be seen but most sites are protected and the artefacts stay undisturbed in their wet, cold graves.

The earliest documented evidence of sealing relates to the landing of a gang of sealers from the Catharine, Henry Fanning as captain, in December 1803 or January 1804. At that time the Islands were an important rendezvous for sealers. Sealers of different nationalities including American, French and British exploited the Islands.

The second half of the 19th century saw a rise in the number of Norwegian sealers as well as sealers based in Cape Town. The first Cape Town based sea elephant oil industry on the Prince Edward Islands was established in 1833.

Large-scale sealing occurred until November 1930 when seal numbers had dropped too low to be commercially exploitable. The ship SS Kildalkey made the final sealing expedition to the Island and took about 1 450 seals on this last trip. Today sealers still roam the Island, not carrying clubs and guns but tagging equipment and scales. Harvesting of seals has been replaced by research of these wonderful creatures.



Generator problems:

The new year brought new challenges to our team. Sadly we lost the use of two of the three main generators. Due to a lack of spare parts, we aren't able to really open them up, find the problem and repair them. Our technical team had to make some quick decisions and get the 'old generator at the old base' connected up to the new base. Luckily we have the expertise and knowledge at hand.



Gerhard, our new base engineer, getting the cables coupled.

These are the three Perkins generators in the new base. Vincent, our diesel mechanic, has been hard at work trying to get them back on line, but without adequate spares this is a difficult task.



Generator Control Panels

Propagation:

Propagation seems to want to come alive every now and then. Just when I think that the ionosphere has collapsed, it suddenly comes alive and provides us all with some decent propagation. How much longer it will be before this cycle recovers, is anyone guess.

I still get comments that certain hams can hear certain beacons in ZS-land, or that they the band is open to ZS....remember I am not in ZS-land. I am at least 2500km from the nearest coast of South Africa. My propagation is different. The only antenna available is broadband military dipole compared to those who have a Yagi. This makes a big difference.

Antenna:

The main HF antenna is currently a broadband dipole made by Radiant Antennas. It has a frequency range of 2.5 to 30MHz and is rated at 125Watts continuous. I hope to upgrade the current antenna at the base with an upgraded version of 500 Watt and a freq range of 1.8 to 30MHz once the ship arrives with the new team on board. This antenna has a very good radiation pattern and is one of the leading military tactical HF antennas in the world today. I do recommend it. One of my best contacts was on PSK while working a VE2 and only using 20 Watts!

QRM / RFI:

The RFI / QRM issue is still a massive problem in the new base and will hopefully be sorted out when the ship arrives in April. The equipment that is causing the RFI is made by Danfoss and is prone to causing RFI.

I have had similar RFI problems back in South Africa with the same manufacturer. They also produce 12Vdc compressors for the mobile fridge / freezer industry.

Pirate:

I still notice the odd pirate using my call sign. I heard him for the first time a week ago. He sounds as if he could be Russian. If you are unsure if you worked me, please feel free to email me to confirm the QSO. I doubt if he has a valid license, hence the trill of pirating. Please forgive him, for he knows no better!

Blacklisting

Seeing that I am busy with a negative topic, how about the brain dead who continue to cause QRM, talk all over other who are trying to work a DX station, not listen to the frequency, call continuously even if they can't hear the desired station? Oh YES!!! We still have these brain dead, cluster spotter, CB mentality operators who believe that; have 5kw amp, 7 Element Yagi and a microphone – can also make a noise just like my neighbors. Yes friends, they live mostly in Southern Europe and Russia and they place themselves on the blacklist of every serious DXer or DXpedition.

When will they ever listen and learn to behave? Do not dare to take them on and tell them that they are wrong....OH NO!!! They are right and we are wrong. Did their parents never teach them manners? This does not mean that everyone I have categorized in these regions is guilty. You know who I am referring to, so please DO NOT email and accuse me of anything. I am addressing the guilty. I have stated my blacklisting policy on the qrz.com site as well. Don't entertain the fact that I will be answering emails to defend myself. You place yourself on the blacklist! If you have the time to email me and complain, then you have the time and effort to operate professionally as well. Wake up and smell the DX!

I ask myself; why do the English, Germans, Dutch, French, Japanese, Americans, South Africans, Namibians, Canadians, etc, NOT behave like this? If you wish to entertain me with similar stories, drop me a mail. Thanks to all those who already sent me similar stories. I find them extremely entertaining. The emails from the blacklisted operators protesting their innocence are just as funny. I am calling on my friends in Southern Europe and Russia to take this matter up directly in your countries and within your amateur radio communities. There is a culture of bad behaviour in your community and this has to be changed. Only you can change it. Beware the day when a Dxpedition places a notice on the cluster and says 'CQ Europe....NOT Italy or Russia'. It is going to happen... BEWARE!!!

I will be publishing my blacklist towards the end of this expedition; do not cry if you are listed. Remember, you placed yourself on this lists!

Humans and Seals Do Not Mix!

Humans and seals do not mix, especially not during breeding season when the seals become extremely aggressive. The males will protect their harem and the female will protect their pups!!! This attack was made by a female Fur Seal on one of our bird specialist when the seal tried to protect her pup. The seal probably assumed that her pup was in danger. Luckily the walk back to the base to get medical attention was not too far. The long tear was made when the bottom canine ripped the flesh. 25 Stitches later!



Simon: Team Leader and Medic applying the stitches.



Innocent but Dangerous



Young Female Elephant Seal



Yes, a toilet with the best view in the world.



One of eight over night huts. The left cubical is the pantiy and the right is the living quarters. This type of hut sleeps 4 people.



A docile Elephant Seal during molting season. The author can be seen in this picture.



There is nothing like a Sunday snooze!



New Life on the Island!

Take note:

1. Our Polar Supply ship will be arriving on 15 March with a team of maintenance people. At this stage I assume my operation will be down scaled, especially the SSB operation.
2. The ship returns to Cape Town on 19 April to collect the new team, including fuel and food for the next year.
3. The ship departs Cape Town on 5 April for Marion Island and arrives 11 April with the new team.
4. I expect the ZS8M operation will cease officially on 11 April 2011. More details to follow.

73 de Pierre ZS1HF / ZS8M

Look up ZS8M, ZS1HF and ZS7SIG on www.qrz.com for more info regarding mode and times.

ZS8M QRT News Letter

Pierre D. Tromp

ZS1HF / ZS8M / ZS9M

ITU Zone: 57

CQ Zone: 38 46 54 S / 37 05 E

Grid: KE83wc IOTA: AF-021

Greetings from Marion Island,

I would also like to dedicate this news letter to the Japanese community, as well as all the Japanese hams who are supplying emergency communications.... we salute you.

Sadly, the 'ZS8M Dxpedition' has come to an end and we are now busy packing our belongings into containers. Sadly I was not able to work everyone, simply being restricted to a dipole (which worked extremely well), weak propagation conditions and restricted operating hours.

Sadly as well, I was not able to test my SteppIR vertical due to the construction that took place, as well as the severe RFI in the new base.

Will I return? I am not sure, but I will be keeping this call sign just in case I do get the chance again. I would be keen to do a trip to Gough Island, but it would be better if Louise could spend the year there with me. We need to discuss this prospect. Who knows?

I have also requested a new DX / Contest call sign: ZS9M. Please lookout for me on the bands. It has been a fantastic year for me. I have made life long friends in our team. I have also made fantastic friends in the DX community. It is also a pity that there is rotten element in Southern Europe, Russian and the former USSR countries. These operators still have a lot to learn about operating and sadly they placed themselves on the blacklist. The blacklist will appear on qrz.com soon. As I stated previously, do NOT contact me if you appear on the blacklist: you were warned in advance. You know who you are, yet you refuse to change for the better, and still you remain a thorn in the side of your fellow operators. I had numerous emails from panicking operators begging me not to blacklist them, only to inform them that I either never heard them or they might have possibly worked a pirate as I was not operating at that specified time. My question to them was how could they continue to operate in this fashion and then beg for forgiveness? When will they ever learn?

Yes, it has also been a tough year for me. I am also sure my family also felt the strain of not having me around....or maybe they were too keen to have me away for a year....so far they aren't telling! But it was also a year of inner growth, finding oneself and introspection; asking oneself those difficult questions....who am I, what do I want in life, where have I gone wrong in life, where will my life take me, etc?

Our supply ship, SA Agulhas, will be arriving on 11 April with the new team and...yes, there are two hams on the new team....sadly they are NOT active.

The new base will have a state of the art commercial Icom HF communications system which I specified and installed. The antenna system is a professional broadband dipole with very good specifications, so who ever operates from here in the future will be able to operate with ease.

I would like to thanks all the operators who worked ZS8M, for their help, understanding, emails and friendship during my term of operation on Marion Island. I cannot name everyone, but I need to thank a few very special people;

IZ8EPY Max, IT1JLN Tullio, KH6CG Stan, JH1AJT Zorro san, JE1LET Masa san, JF2MBF Nob san, ZS1A Johan, ZS1LF / ZD9GI John, ZS1LN Allan, ZS6WB Hal, ZS1PR Ean, ZS1AU Dennis, ZS1X Dirk (my QSL Manager), ZS6P Tjerk, V51B Andre, G3SVD Andy and the pleasant UK group, MM0NDX Col, PY1NB Felipe, NE8Z Rick and the merry men from Michigan, W9RPM John, WA7IR John (A special big thanks!!), N4AA Carl, N4BAA Jose, OH2BU Jari, ON8RA / 5T0JL Jean, SQ8X Stan, VE7BZ Paul (A big thanks!!), W3UR Bernie, K4ADV Robert and the countless other I have not named.

A very big thank you my sponsors!

Lastly, to my wife Louise; thank you for being such an understanding and loving wife, for your support, love, dedication and in believing in me. You are a truly amazing person. I love you!

I think some 8500 DX operators owe you a bunch of flowers for 'renting me out' to help them reach their DXCC.

I close off with some pictures of a trip I undertook with Vincent, our diesel mechanic, last month.



Vincent and Pierre: packed and ready to brave the interior.



This fat chick allowed me to sit right next to it.



A Giant Petrel feeding her chick.



A very inquisitive group of gentlemen



Marion Island has a truly beautiful coast line.



An Elephant Seal enjoying the sunshine.



Elephant Seals spending a few months on Marion Island to molt.



New life.



Louise, taken 2 days before departing Cape Town. Taken 1 month after arriving at Marion Island





27 September to 25 October 2011
www.t32c.com

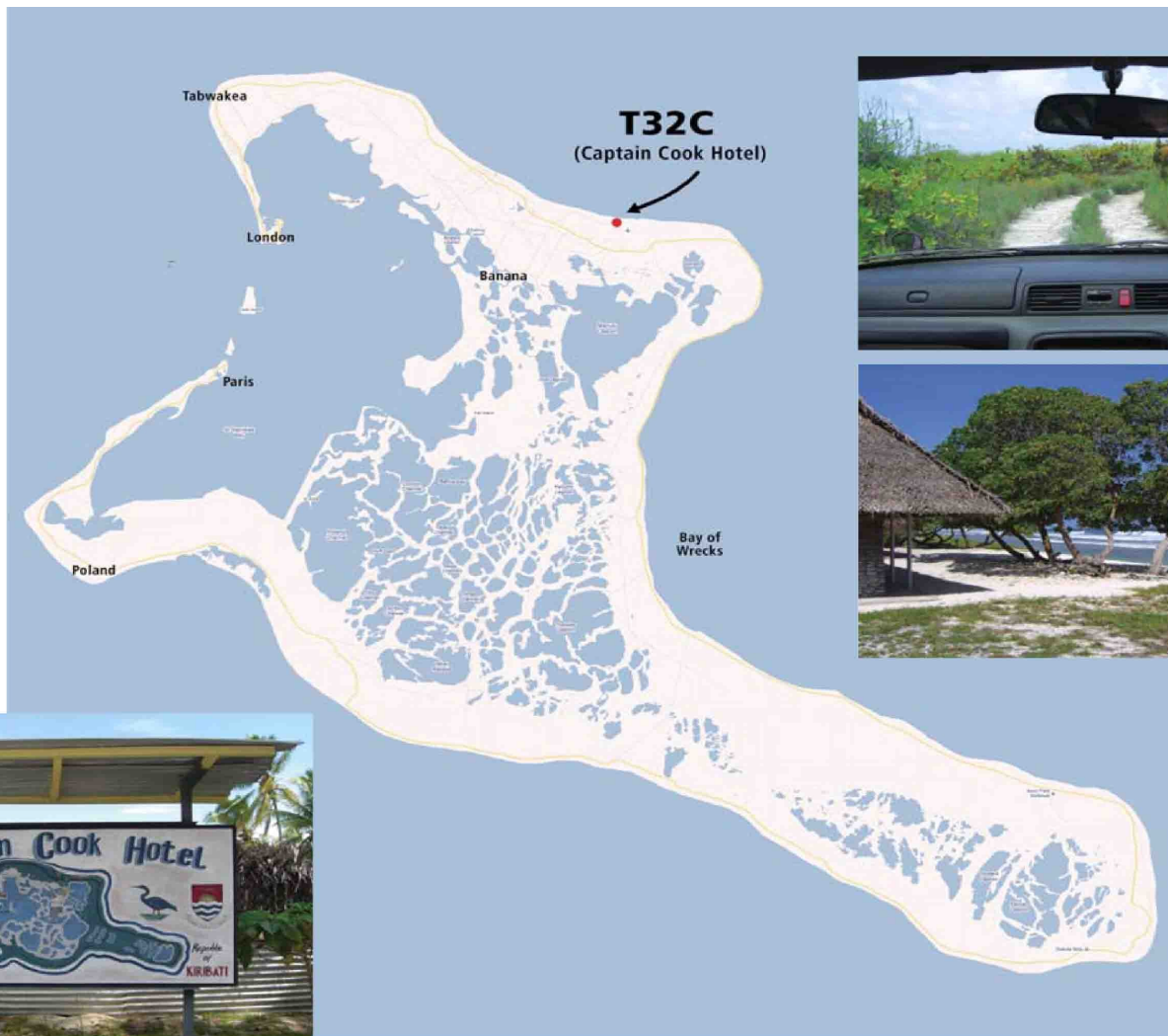


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The **Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA)** is proud to announce its fifth major DXpedition, this time to Christmas Island in the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Yet again, this will be a major effort, with a target of more than 150,000 QSOs. Given the remoteness of the location and uncertainty about propagation during this new sunspot cycle, 3 1/2 weeks of operation is planned including 4 full week-ends.

There will be up to 15 stations active around the clock. October has been chosen as the optimum time of the year for HF propagation to the major centres of amateur radio activity.

The Objectives

We have multiple objectives but the principal ones are to offer DXers worldwide the chance to make at least one contact with this remote DXCC entity, however modest their station, while at the same time allowing more serious DXers the opportunity to complete new band-slots. The team will make a particular effort to focus on Europe and the US East Coast. It will aim to operate to the highest standards and to make the operation as inclusive as possible, by way of its interactive website.

We will attempt to contact 40,000 unique stations. This will be a real challenge. In the case of stations in the UK we will attempt to contact between 1,000 and 2,000 unique stations, a major challenge from the Pacific particularly bearing in mind the severe planning restrictions on antennas in the UK.

Openings to Europe will be short so we will be very disciplined in exploiting these openings (short path and long path) whenever we can.

Christmas Island

Why Kiritimati? Club Log shows Eastern Kiribati (Kiritimati) T32 as 36th most wanted DXCC entity by European operators and 61st most wanted worldwide. It is even more sought after on the LF bands.

The 2010 DX Magazine most wanted survey shows the following for Eastern Kiribati:

- Worldwide ranking - Mixed modes - #78 (2009 - #91)
- Europe ranking - Mixed modes - #37 (2009 - #47)

Kiritimati or Christmas Island is a Pacific Ocean atoll in the northern Line Islands and is part of the Republic of Kiribati. It should not be confused with an island of the same name (VK9/X) in the Indian Ocean.

Christmas Island lies 232 km (144 mi) north of the Equator, 6,700 km (4,200 mi) from Sydney and 5,360 km (3,330 mi) from San Francisco. It is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC + 14, and Christmas Island is the first inhabited place on Earth to experience New Year each year.

The entire island is a wildlife sanctuary and access to five particularly sensitive areas is restricted. The island is perhaps best known for the nuclear tests conducted in the region around Christmas Island by the United Kingdom in the late 1950s and by the United States in 1962. During these tests islanders were not evacuated. The island's runway was kept in good repair as a back-up for the space shuttle and there are regular flights from Honolulu. The main source of income nowadays is tourism, mainly for bone fishing in the saltwater lagoon.

The name "Kiritimati" is a rather straightforward translation of the English word "Christmas" into Gilbertese - where the 'ti' combination is pronounced 's'-as in the English word nation. Similarly Kiribati is a transliteration of Gilberts with the K replacing the G and the R replacing the L.

Our Strategy

FSDXA has established a reputation for activating countries which are high in the top 100 worldwide and doing so with substantial resources in order to cater not only to "top gun" DXers but also to the huge numbers of DXers (maybe 75,000 or more) who would like to contact rare DXCC entities but who are unable to do so because they lack the necessary equipment or, more particularly, antennas. Many are unable to hear the rare DXCC stations because of their weak signals and interference. Many DXpeditions are active for a short period and do not even cover two weekends.

Our strategy is to run maximum power on as many bands as possible. By operating simultaneously on all bands, we also aim to reduce the potential for deliberate interference which unfortunately has become an issue in recent years during some DXpedition operations.

Given the remoteness of the location, we will supplement our usual collection of monoband Yagis with vertical arrays close to the sea, to cater for the low arrival angles to be expected from the more distant parts of the world. We will be active for almost four weeks including four full weekends, on all bands 160 through 6m, and on SSB, CW and RTTY. Activity on other modes such as FM or PSK31 will only be considered if and when it is felt that demand for the main modes has been well met on particular bands.

Our Equipment and Antennas

We are planning to have up to 15 stations. There will be a station on every band from 160m to 6m with second stations on 80m, 40m and 20m and other bands where technically feasible, so that we can operate on CW and SSB at the same time. Once again, Yaesu will be providing our RF equipment, the newly-launched FT-5000 transceivers and the well-proven VL-1000 linear amplifiers.

The antennas planned are as follows:

- 160m: Titanex with top loading
- 80m: Two pairs of phased verticals
- 40m: Two four-square arrays
- 30m: Four-square array and single vertical
- 20m: One 3 element Yagi and one Vertical Dipole Array
(Vertical dipole, with parasitic reflector)
- 17m: One 4 element Yagi and one special 4-element broadside VDA
- 15m: One 4 element Yagi and one VDA
- 12m: One 4 element Yagi and one VDA
- 10m: One 6 element Yagi, one 3 element Yagi and one VDA
- 6m: 7 element Yagi with EME capability

We will be using the StarLog computer system. Logs will be uploaded daily by satellite telephone. We will need to take generators and fuel as there is only limited generating capacity on the island.



Christmas Island Statistics

Population:	Approx 5000
Area:	About 322 kilometres (124 sq miles)
Latitude:	1° 52' North
Longitude:	157° 20' West
Time Zone:	UTC +14





Waikiki - the adventure begins!



It's a long way to Kiritimati!



Needs must.



Airport, Christmas Island

The T32 website has been developed using new technology. Based on past history we expect to get over 10,000,000 hits during our time on the island. In addition there will be many hits before and after our trip. The website will contain some innovative and exciting features that should attract favourable comment from the DX community. The website has already been launched. Several innovations will be released just before the DXpedition.

Sponsors

We are delighted that Yaesu have already agreed to be Global Sponsors of T32C continuing our excellent relationship. We have used Yaesu equipment on all our DXpeditions starting with our 9M0C DXpedition to the Spratly Islands in 1998.

Leading UK amateur radio retailers Martin Lynch and Sons and Nevada Radio are again sponsoring our DXpedition. We are very grateful for their ongoing support. However, with a project of this magnitude, there is much else that is required. This is where you come in. With the huge amount of equipment, antennas and other ancillary gear necessary for such a large-scale operation, the most economical method of shipping from Europe to Christmas Island is to fill a 20ft shipping container, which will go to Christmas Island via Suva, capital of Fiji. This is very expensive and the Five Star DXers Association is seeking sponsorship from DX clubs, foundations, societies, associations and individuals as well as corporate organisations.

Because Christmas Island is so remote, the cost of airfares from Europe, North America or Japan via Honolulu is considerable. All members of the DXpedition are paying their own travel expenses, for their accommodation and food on the island as well as making a contribution to the substantial logistics costs.

Sponsorship monies will be used to fund the balance of the costs of equipment, antennas, coaxial cable, computers and ancillary equipment, together with the cost of shipping and insurance from Europe to Christmas Island and back, together with Customs and other legal paperwork.

How to become a Sponsor

Individual Sponsorship

You can help the DXpedition by making a personal donation through our donations page. In order for your callsign to appear on the T32C QSL card a minimum donation of £30 Sterling, \$45 US, € 40 or ¥4,000 Japanese is required. Those donating over £10 Sterling (\$15 US, € 12 or ¥1,500) will be sent their QSL cards directly immediately after the DXpedition - they will not need to request cards. Donations should be made via PayPal. All individual Sponsors will be recognised in the Sponsors page of our website.

Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors make a major contribution to the DXpedition. Besides money this can include equipment, services or resources. All Corporate Sponsors will receive links from pages on this site to their own websites. In addition they will receive acknowledgement on the QSL card and in presentations and articles about the DXpedition. If you want to become a Corporate Sponsor please contact Neville Cheadle, G3NUG via email: g3nug@btinternet.com

Club Sponsors

Radio and DX clubs are invited to sponsor the T32C DXpedition financially. "Club Sponsor" names will appear on the QSL cards and in presentations and articles about the DXpedition. We will show all Club Sponsors on our web pages together with logos and links to their web sites where available. To become a Club Sponsor please contact Neville Cheadle, G3NUG via email: g3nug@btinternet.com. There is limited space on the T32C QSL card and in presentation materials and articles. To be sure that your club appears here we ask for donations of at least £100 Sterling (\$150 US, € 120 or ¥15,000 Japanese).

Donations

Running a DXpedition is a very expensive business and you are invited to make a donation towards the cost of the operation. We are extremely grateful for any donation you can make regardless of the amount.

Postal Donations

To make a donation by post in Sterling, US Dollars, Japanese Yen, Euros or other currencies.

Interbank Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Donations

Donations via EFT are very welcome and are particularly efficient for UK donors. FSDXA incurs no costs if you use EFT, so we get the full benefit of your donation.

PayPal Donations

We welcome donations via PayPal although UK donors in particular may prefer to use EFT (see above).

In the "Payment For:" box on PayPal, please be sure to enter your callsign so that you can be added to the list of sponsors on our web site.

The Team

A large number of amateurs from 13 different DXCC entities have already signed up for T32C, some for half the overall period, some for the whole operation. There will be 30 operators on site at any one time. Operator numbers have been determined to ensure that a full complement of stations can be manned whenever bands are open. Many of these operators have been with us before. All bring experience not only of operating (usually multiple modes, often with a contesting background) but in terms of other essential skills. For example, we will have two medical specialists, antenna, RF and software specialists, and a range of other skills which will be essential in mounting a major operation so far from logistical support.

At the time of writing, the team is expected to consist of 40 operators including:

Neville G3NUG (Team Leader)
Chris G3SVL (Co-Leader)
John G3WGV (Co-Leader)

Michael DG1CMZ	Falk DK7YY	Paul EI5DI	Dave EI9FBB
Gerard F2JD	Ian F5VKT/G3YBY	Michel FM5CD	Vincent G0LMX
Tony G0OPB	Nobby G0VJG	Fred G3SVK	Laurie G3UML
David G3UNA	Gordon G3USR	Dave G3WGN	Mike G3WPH
Don G3XTT	Mark G4AXX	John G4DRS	Nick G4FAL
Mike G4IUF	Tony G4LDL	Justin G4TSH	Michael G7VJR
Clive GM3POI	Bob GU4YOX	Kazu JA1RJU	Dave K4SV
Bob MD0CCE	Bill N2WB	Arnie N6HC	Bob N6OX
Ronald PA3EWP	Maury W3EF	Paul WF5T	

Michael DG1CMZ is the winner of the competition for the sponsorship of a young amateur to join the T32C team. We thank the anonymous sponsor for making this sponsorship available.

FSDXA

FSDXA was formed by the team members who organised the 9M0C DXpedition in 1998. The seven founder members also organised the record-breaking D68C Comoros DXpedition in 2001 (over 168,000 contacts, a staggering 70% increase over the previous DXpedition record). This team subsequently organised the 3B9C (Rodrigues) DXpedition in 2004 and 3B7C (Saint Brandon) in 2007. Saint Brandon was an invaluable proving ground for much of what we will do at Christmas Island, being the first time we had been so far from medical and logistical support and the first time we had had to rely on generator power.

We have been allocated the callsign T32C. The "C" in the callsign stands for "CDXC", the club from which the Five Star DXers Association was formed. It is also a reminder of the group's previously successful operations as 9M0C (Spratly Islands, 1998), D68C (Comoro Islands, 2001), 3B9C (Rodrigues, 2004) and 3B7C (Saint Brandon, 2007).

Useful Web sites:

T32C: www.t32c.com

CDXC: www.cdxc.org.uk

Previous FSDXA Expeditions: www.fsdxa.com



FSDXA, February 2011
Photography by Don G3BJ



Team Leader Neville G3NUG



Our home for four weeks



Local entertainment



Don G3BJ and Neville G3NUG undertook a site survey in January 2010. This is the Butternut used by T32BJ.

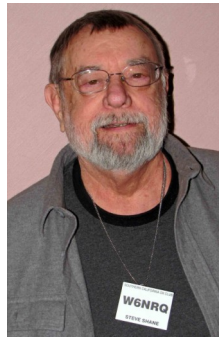
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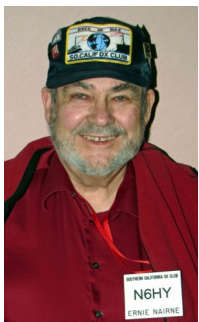
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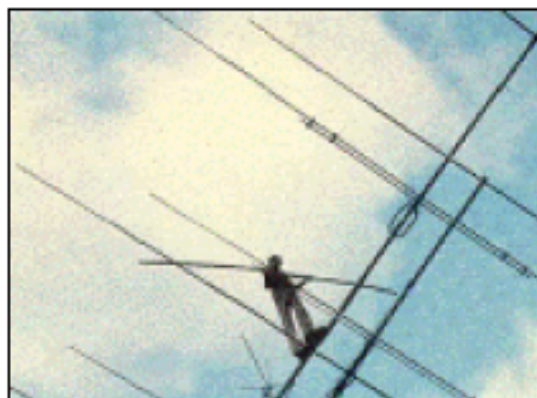
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